

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/247,502

Examiner

David E. England

Applicant(s)

BATES ET AL.

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/17/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19 and 32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 February 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other

William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2143

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DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The closest prior art of record, MacNaughton et al. U.S. Patent No.6020884 (hereinafter MacNaughton) is directed towards the generation of community bookmark list that is based on the submission of individual bookmarks by community members. Also, notes that may be comprised of a list of subject or topic related headings (i.e., forum message threads) that a user may peruse, a list of threaded messages relating to a particular subject or topic heading, or the contents of a particular message.
3. Whereas, Applicant's claimed invention is directed to building a list of favorite links from lists associated with other users that are viewing the same document and does not base its list of "community bookmarks" on the location of community members, along with other limitations of the presented claims as stated in claims 19 and 32 as well as Applicant's enabling portions of the specification, pages 15 – 18.
4. Applicant states in Remarks concerning claim 19 dated Oct. 14, 2003, pages 15 and 16, that MacNaughton does not disclose or suggest any mechanism for building a list of favorite links from lists associated with other users that are viewing the same document and does not base its list of "community bookmarks" on the location of community members.
5. Nor does MacNaughton disclose to associate a second hypertext document with the second user in response to user input from the second user, and to notify the first user of the association of the second hypertext document with the second user, and wherein the program is further configured to build a list of favorite links associated with the hypertext document being

Art Unit: 2143

viewed by the first user by combining lists of favorite links associated with each user currently viewing the same hypertext document as the first, (see Applicant's enabling portion of the specification pages 15 – 18).

6. Thus, as stated above, MacNaughton as well as previously cited prior art does not teach or suggest the above limitations in combination with all of the limitations of the independent claims.

7. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Claims 19 and 32 are allowed.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. a. Bates et al. U.S. Patent No. 6832350 discloses Organizing and categorizing hypertext document bookmarks by mutual affinity based on predetermined affinity criteria.

11. b. Bates et al. U.S. Patent No. 6557015 discloses Determining whether a second hypertext document is included in a list of active document trails.

Art Unit: 2143

12. c. Bates et al. U.S. Patent No. 6131110 discloses System and method for predicting user interest in unaccessed site by counting the number of links to the unaccessed sites in previously accessed sites.

13. d. Cragun U.S. Patent No. 6557028 discloses Method and computer program product for implementing collaborative bookmarks and synchronized bookmark lists.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David E. England
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Will C. Vaughn
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